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Conservation Commission Minutes 09/16/2010

Arlington Conservation Commission
 Minutes
 September 16, 2010

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Charles Tirone, David White, Ellen Reed, and William O'Rourke of the Commission. Members Catherine Garnett, and Ezra Benjamin were not in attendance. Elizabeth Karpatis, Karen Grossman, Teresa Hodge, Brad Barber, Laura Kuhn, Mr. Santini, Tim Williams, Richard Dickason.

7:45 p.m. – Commission Business

White/Reed motioned to approve the 9/2 minutes; motion passed unanimously.

White/O'Rourke motioned to approve the 8/19 minutes; motion passed unanimously.

The Commission coordinated the attendance at the booth at Town Day on Sept. 25.

Ms. Beckwith will conduct a site walk on Monday to Ms. Wiggins' property next to Mill Brook adjacent to Colonial Village to review her request to cut vegetation.

Mr. Stevens asked for file information on the permit for 16 Spy Pond Parkway in regards to timing of installation of planting plan.

Ms. Reed reported that the Walking Book revisions were on her old computer and need to be transferred to her new one.

7:45pm Executive Session – session not conducted as the topic had to be rescheduled.

8pm Enforcement 24 Sheraton Park

Both Mr. Stevens and Mr. Tirone recused themselves from this portion of the meeting.

Ms. Garnett met with Ms. Sacco and they compiled a plant list of sedges, fern and a grass. The Commission would like this planting plan completed by June 1, 2011. The board will ask Ms. Garnett if a few low shrubs could be added to the design and will continue this item to the next meeting, 10/7.

Mr. Stevens and Mr. Tirone returned to the meeting.

8:15pm Notice of Intent- 30-50 Mill St, apartment building

This hearing was continued from 9/2/10.

Mr. Williams presented a letter in response to questions on illicit discharges and the water quality swale design.

He also presented an additional precaution of an underground clay wall to prevent groundwater discharges from the adjacent highschool property to the water quality swale. The Engineering department is also reviewing the design. The project is still under review with the Redevelopment Board for another few weeks at the minimum.

Mr. Stevens asked for confirmation of the cleaning schedule of the parking garages and Ms. Beckwith asked for detailed planting plans of the water quality swale, if not already in the submittals.

Reed/White motioned to continue the hearing to 10/21 at 8pm; motion passed unanimously.

8:30pm Working Session – 339 Mystic St

Ms. Kuhn presented very preliminary drawings of site redevelopment of the steep unstable yard at this property. Lots of regrading

and removal of impervious surfaces will take place. The Commission informed the applicants that the full proposal for invasive control and landscaping plans should be included in the permit application. The proposal included a driveway access with pavement on the steep graded portion and peastone on the flat area at the bottom. The retaining wall design is still being done, but a modular system is being investigated to save space. The Commission asked if the type with planting pockets could be utilized.

The Commission also cautioned that the local bylaw regulations are presently being revised and to look for those changes in the near future. Ms. Beckwith would forward those newly revised regulations to the consultant.

Mr. Stevens recused himself from the next two items and left the meeting.

8:45pm Notice of Intent – 208-210 Pleasant St, land-based phragmites control, continued from 9/2

Mr. Barber reported on the tour with Aquatic Control Technology to mobilize for this work. The small pockets of phragmites will be treated by hand wicking, accessed by boat. The treatment could be scheduled as early as early October.

Ms. Beckwith reported on site visits to these projects by kayak and reported that there were only a few phragmites plants left on shore and that a detailed planting plan should not be necessary as the shoreline is well vegetated. She took more detailed photographs of this project area.

Reed/O'Rourke motioned to approve this project with the same conditions as the other phragmites control projects but without the condition for an additional detailed planting plan; motion passed unanimously.

Documents reviewed: Notice of Intent application

9pm Notice of Intent– Rte 2 path along Spy Pond, land-based phragmites control, continued from 9/2

Ms. Beckwith also reported from her site visit that there are only a few plants in this location on shore and her recommendation is the same, that no additional detailed planting plan be required.

Reed/O'Rourke motioned to approve this project with the same conditions as the other phragmites control projects but without the condition for an additional detailed planting plan; motion passed unanimously.

Documents reviewed: Notice of Intent application

Mr. Stevens returned to the meeting.

9:15pm Amendments to Bylaw Regulations

The Commission discussed edits, new section on Adjacent Upland Resource Areas, to add abutter notifications for all RDA applications, discussed need (or not) for small project definition, and that no permits should last longer than 6 years. Mr. Tirone expressed dismay at the section on variances.

Reed/White motioned to approve the changes in the regulations to date and to continue the hearing to the 10/7/10; motion passed unanimously.

Documents reviewed: draft changes to the bylaw regulations.

9:30pm Discussion- Spy Pond Park path reconstruction

Ms. Grossman presented a draft proposal to repair the eroding paths at the new park. The stabilized aggregate material is washing into the pond at various locations. One manufacturer has donated a load of newer material that is bonded by another additive. Ms. Reed expressed concern over the additive and the board asked that any application for this work include the material safety data sheets for the additives.

Ms. Grossman also asked how to control poison ivy. Ms. Reed recommended having Aquatic Control Technology spray with Roundup. Ms. Beckwith will forward their contact information.

Commission Business (cont.)

Mr. O'Rourke has submitted his resignation letter to the Town Manager, effective after this meeting. He would like to remain an associate member of the board and would remain available for consultations in his field.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator